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## **Prioritization of Workers for Medical Surveillance**

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## Prioritization Protocol

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- **We are presenting the LLNL rationale and protocol for prioritizing workers for medical surveillance so that workers who are at greatest risk for sensitization or disease at LLNL are addressed first.**

# **LLNL Medical Surveillance Program**

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- **The program has been in place for approximately 35 years**
- **Until recently, Be LPT was not a part of the medical protocol**
- **Specifics will be provided by Dr. Steve Burastero in the companion to this presentation**

## **Criteria for inclusion in the medical program**

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- **The criteria has changed**
- **Previously, supervisors were required to identify those workers with a “reasonable potential for Be exposure, as recommended by the Industrial Hygiene Group”**
  - active medical surveillance group was approximately 120 workers
- **Current program is to identify all workers with a potential for occupational exposure**
  - anyone who works with or around beryllium metal, beryllium alloys, or insoluble compounds, except “articles”
  - list of potential candidates is at 700 and growing

## LLNL exposure history

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- **Large number of general area samples**
  - typical result was below the detection limit for the method
  - very small percentage of samples with measurable beryllium
- **Large number of swipe samples**
  - results are typically very low
  - used as a check on housekeeping and work practices
- **Small number of personal air samples**
  - results for older samples typically below the OSHA PEL
  - current measurements are below the LLNL administrative action level of  $0.2 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  (8-hr TWA)
- **This data suggested that the “exposed” population was relatively small**

## Identified worker characteristics

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- **Industrial hygiene hazard assessments**
  - current operations; greater exposure potential
  - all workers identified
  - exposure potential has been reviewed and may be characterized
- **Facility safety documents**
  - identifies operations; lesser exposure potential
  - less detail than IH hazard assessments; are complemented by the IH assessments
  - typically identifies only responsible individual
- **Training rosters**
  - identifies workers who may have a potential for exposure
  - provides no information about operations

## **Be Occupational History Questionnaire**

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- **Complements IH assessments, facility safety documents, and training rosters**
- **Worker has the opportunity to identify all areas and tasks where he worked at LLNL**
- **Certain specific higher risk operations are identified in the questionnaire**
- **Questionnaire is being reviewed by LLNL Health Services and Industrial Hygiene staff**
- **Copies of the questionnaire are available**

# Prioritization System

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- **Priority Group 1**
  - works directly with beryllium in a dust producing operation, regardless of level of airborne exposure
  - documented exposure  $>0.2 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  (8-hr TWA)
- **Priority Group 2**
  - worker required to be in a beryllium work area regardless of the level of airborne exposure, but does not work directly with beryllium
- **Priority Group 3**
  - any worker transient in a beryllium work area, but does not work directly with beryllium



## Scheduling

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- **Priority Group 1 will be scheduled this fiscal year**
- **Results of this group will determine actions for Priority Groups 2 and 3**

## **Preliminary Results of Prioritization**

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- **The prioritization protocol acts as a filter**
- **Potential number of candidates for initial medical surveillance has been reduced from more than 700 to 140**
- **Resources are available to deal with the reduced population this fiscal year**
- **The remaining members of the population will be tracked**